

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as shown below:

- 5 1. (Previously amended) A method of bleaching cellulose pulp
in a bleaching line, having at least two bleaching steps
comprising:
providing a first and a second bleaching step, as seen in a
flow direction of the pulp through the bleaching line,
10 the bleaching steps having wash apparatuses for the pulp
arranged after the first and the second bleaching steps,
respectively,
leading wash liquor counter-Previously to a pulp flow through
the bleaching steps,
15 supplying the wash liquor in a main conduit ~~(A)~~ that is
pressurised during steady state,
taking the wash liquor to a subsequent wash of the second
bleaching step from a first branch position in the main
conduit,
20 leading at least a part of the wash filtrate from the
subsequent wash of the second bleaching step to a second
branch position in the main conduit,
taking the wash liquor to a subsequent wash of the first
bleaching step from a third branch position (A3) in the main
conduit,
25 leading at least a part of the wash filtrate from the
subsequent wash of the first bleaching step to a fourth branch
position (A4) in the main conduit,
arranging the first branch position in a first position and
30 the second branch position and the fourth branch position in
subsequent succession relative to the first branch position as
seen in the flow direction.

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2. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein a base level of pressure in the main conduit is established at a level in a range of 1,5-3,5 bars.

5 3. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 2 wherein dilution and wash liquids taken from the main conduit to dilution vessels or wash apparatuses operating at pressures above the base level is pressurised by a second pressurising means.

10 4. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 2 wherein the base level of pressure in the main conduit is established at a level in a range of 4,5-6,5 bars.

15 5. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the main conduit is connected to receive and distribute acidic filtrate from and to, respectively, acidic bleaching steps.

20 6. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the main conduit is connected to receive and distribute alkaline filtrate from and to, respectively, alkaline bleaching steps.

25 7. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 5 wherein upstream the first branch position (A1) in a first end of the main conduit, a main pressurising device or a pressurised wash liquid tank, is provided which pressurizes the main conduit and establishes a basic flow in the main conduit in a direction reverse to a formed flow of cellulose pulp in a bleaching line.

30 8. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein before the second and fourth branch positions, filtrate is led to the main conduit via pump devices.

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9. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein at least one additional bleaching step is provided before the first and second bleaching steps, as seen in the flow direction of the pulp, and

5 at least one liquor of wash liquor and dilution liquor is taken to a subsequent wash of an additional bleaching step, from a fifth branch position (A5) in the main conduit (1) and at least a part of the wash filtrate from the subsequent wash of the additional bleaching step is led to a sixth branch 10 position (A6) in the main conduit.

10. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein an extraction step is provided after the additional bleaching step and before the first bleaching step, as seen in 15 the flow direction of the pulp through the bleaching line, and that a wash apparatus is arranged after the extraction step.

11. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the wash filtrate from the subsequent wash of the extraction step, at least partly is used as dilution liquor 20 for the wash step subsequent to the additional bleaching step, and a part of the wash filtrate is drawn off.

12. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 9, 25 wherein the cellulose pulp is washed in a wash apparatus before the additional bleaching step, as seen in the flow direction of the pulp through the bleaching line, and at least one liquor of wash liquor and dilution liquor is taken to the wash apparatus from a seventh branch position in the main conduit.

13. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein 30 chlorine dioxide is used as active bleaching agent in the bleaching steps, which chlorine dioxide is added to the pulp in a blending apparatus.

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14. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein at an other end of the main conduit, an outlet is provided, from which wash liquor and filtrate are drawn off.

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15. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 14, the outlet is controlled by a pressure and/or flow controlling control valve.